

Applicant: Keith Wiedow et al.
Application No.: 10/723,282
Response to Office action dated Aug. 26, 2005
Response filed November 21, 2005

Remarks

Claims 1–10 remain pending in the application. In the Office action dated Aug. 26, 2005, claims 1–2 and 5–8 were rejected as anticipated by Gresham. Claims 9–10 were rejected as obvious in view of Gresham. Claims 3–4 were rejected as obvious over Gresham in view of Yoshitani.

The references applied by the examiner were submitted by applicant. Gresham is a known prior art type of crimper where the crimping wheels are brought into position by rotation, as in the prior art discussed in applicant's specification at ¶ [0004]:

The crimping wheels are typically mounted on a pivoting mechanism which brings the crimping wheels into engagement with the anvil roll. The pivot mechanism allows simple and rapid opening of the gap between the crimping wheels and the anvil roll which facilitates threading of the tissue webs.

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly claim the invention as required by the examiner, replacing “can be moved” with “is movable” and to more clearly claim the structures rather than the functions they perform.

Claim 1 as amended has the limitation “wherein each transverse carriage has a support bracket mounted thereto by a linear bearing ... the support bracket being mounted by the linear bearing for linear vertical movement on the transverse carriage toward and away from the anvil roll” and is also limited by “at least one linear actuator extending between the transverse carriage and the support bracket, the linear actuator operable to cause linear movement on the linear bearing of the support bracket”. Neither structure is shown or suggested in the art of record, and particularly not in Gresham. In Gresham the *stationary arms 11* may be mounted for cross machine adjustment, but claim 1 cannot be read on the *stationary arms 11* because claim 1 has three claimed structures: the transverse carriage, the linear bearing, and the support bracket which are related in a way not disclosed in Gresham and the claimed relationship of these claimed elements has the advantage of being arranged to allow higher speed operation of a crimper.

Applicant has not claimed a means plus function, and the claimed structure does not read

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on the *embossing wheels 10* of Gresham even if, as the examiner contends, Gresham "provides a linear means for providing pressure", because Gresham does not show applicant's claimed structure or the claimed functionality. The claimed functionality is a support bracket, mounted by the linear bearing for linear vertical movement on the transverse carriage toward and away from the anvil roll by at least one linear actuator.

Yoshitani is from an unrelated art, and teaches using an air knife for removing liquid, or drying, but does not in any way suggest the limitations of claims 3-4 which prevent vibrations in a high speed crimper by cleaning lint from the crimping wheel to prevent eccentric mass on the crimping wheel which would produce vibration in the crimping wheel.

Claims 6 and 7 have distinct structural limitations:

- 6 ...the first linear actuator is disconnectable... arranged to be slid provide access to.....
7.locks in a raised position .. providing access....
8. ...a handle mounted to the first support bracket....

With respect to claims 9-10, the examiner fails to show any motivation for replacing the one shaft of Gresham with two as claimed, said claim limitation providing additional functionality not suggested by the art applied, namely access to the crimping wheels without removal of the guards.

Applicant believes that no new matter has been added by this amendment.

Applicant submits that the claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable action thereon is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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